Withdrawal of Modvat Benefits from Soft Drink Industry

2063. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for grant of Modvat on returnable glass bottles at the time of levy of specific excise duty;

(b) whether the reasons stated in (a) above ceased to exist at the time of change in levy of excise duty to ad valorem; if not, the detailed reasons why Modvat was not continued to the made available;

(c) whether Government has received any representations from the soft drink industry on withdrawal of Modvat benefits; and

(d) if so, what action has the Government taken or proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) As per Rule 57A of Central Excise Rules, 1944, Modvat credit is allowed on packaging material or containers if their cost is included in the assessable value of the final product. In the case of specific rate of duty, the question of inclusion of the value does not arise but the same becomes a material fact when rate of duty is ad valorem.

(c) After the change in the duty structure of the aerated waters few representations have been received.

(d) Modvat credit of duty paid on glass bottles can be allowed only if the value of bottles is included in the value of the prodcut viz. bottles containing aerated waters. It is a matter of fact to be ascertained in each case of claim for Modvat.

Protest agasuit T.V. Programme Caption 'Darjeeiing Pukar Rahi Kai'

2064. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a T.V. programme captioned as 'Darjeeiing Pukar Rahi Hai' was telesiast from D.D.-1 on 29th June, 1995; evoked a widespread protest in Darjeeiing;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that under the pretext of depicting the history, life and culture of the people of Darjeeiing, this progwmne projected only a particular community which

(c) if so, whether Government have instituted any enquiry into this grave and mischevious act of the Doordarshan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The facts are being ascertained.

Excise Duty on Paper

2065. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: SHRI SAN J AY DALMIA: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy being followed by Government for rationalisation of excise duty on paper;

(b) whether the Government consider the size of the paper mill also for this purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?